

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 5, 9-10 and 18-20 are amended. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Tyler at the interview held September 20, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

As agreed at the personal interview, the claims distinguish over the applied references.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) do not present any additional claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Are Patentable Over The Applied References

The Office Action (1) rejects claims 1-2, 5, 8-10, 13, 15-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,333,064 to Seidner et al. (Seidner) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,343,309 to Roetling; (2) rejects claims 3-4, 6, 11-12 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Seidner in view of Roetling, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,822,467 to Lopez et al. (Lopez); and (3) rejects claims 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Seidner in view of Roetling, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,538,771 to Sakatani et al. (Sakatani). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Seidner discloses a method for descreening a half-tone (HT) image including the steps of evaluating screen parameters (Fig. 7, step 50; col. 12, lines 55-60) which can include the frequency; calculating screen removal filters 20 (Fig. 7, step 52; col. 12, lines 66-68); and performing the descreening (Fig. 7, step 56).

Roetling is directed to adaptive filtering to provide improved reconstruction of a continuous tone (contone) image from a halftone image. The halftone pattern frequency can be determined by various methods or can be estimated (col. 5, lines 16-28). A halftone image is subjected to lowpass spatial filtering to remove the fundamental and harmonic frequencies (col. 5, lines 37-47) to produce a first approximation image (FAI) (col. 6, lines 29-31). Next, the FAI is processed by an adaptive filter at block 36 (Fig. 2; col. 6, lines 39-40). The adaptive filter provides one or more sets of predetermined filters, the particular filter used for each processed pixel being selected under feedback control "based on the content of the FAI in the block 34" (col. 6, lines 40-45).

By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 9 and 18 are amended to recite that two or more filters are selected (claim 20 previously recited a plurality of filters). Independent claims 1, 9, 18 and 20 are amended to further recite that filtered image data produced by the two or more (plurality) of filters are blended.

Regarding independent claims 1, 9, 18 and 20, Seidner and Roetling fail to disclose (as recited in claim 1) "filtering the image data using the selected two or more filters from the filter bank" and "blending the two or more filtered image data to form blended image data." The feature of blending was recited in prior claims 2, 10 and 19. The Office Action cites to Roetling at col. 5, line 58 as disclosing this feature. However, the cited section merely discloses that the halftone image data is filtered by an adaptive filter, not that two or more filtered images are blended, as recited.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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